

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

MAY 24, 2005

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on May 17, 2005, **EDDY V. CROSS**, age 45, of Gorham, Illinois, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, in a two-count indictment, charging him with unlawful manufacture of methamphetamine and maintaining a place for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine. The violations took place between March 2005 and April 29, 2005, in Jackson County, Illinois. An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

CROSS's offenses carry a penalty of up to 30 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$2,000,000, and a term of 6 years supervised release.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office and the Southern Illinois Enforcement Group pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, Jackson County States Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.